A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) It is presumed that the reference is to the recovery of fees from pupils belonging to the depressed classes. No general orders on the subject were issued by Government in the Local Self-Government Department on March 9th.

Excise

Delay in the acceptance or rejection of bids at abkari sales.

* 267 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether bids at abkari sales are not promptly accepted or rejected;

(*b*) whether the bids are kept in suspense till dates of resales;

(*c*) if so, whether the old bidders are disabled from withdrawing their bids; and

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that much hardship is caused to bidders by this method?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested. The conditions applicable to abkari sales are published in advance by the Commissioner of Excise. For the latest notifications on the subject, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the supplements to Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 29th January 1935 and 25th June 1935.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Famine Relief

Expenditure on relief works in the Ceded districts.

268 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money spent this year on relief works in the Ceded districts till the 1st August 1935; and

(*b*) the amounts spent on such relief works during the course of the last twelve years?

A.—(*a*) The actual expenditure up to the end of March 1935 is Rs. 2,18,233. The actual figures of expenditure from 1st April 1935 are not yet available. Allotments amounting to Rs. 8,82,000 have been sanctioned for famine relief from the end of March to the end of July 1935. These figures do not include grants made to the district boards for the expansion of ordinary works to provide employment.

(*b*) Particulars are not readily available and their compilation would involve a great deal of time and labour.